

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A dispersant composition comprising an aqueous solvent and i) at least one non-ionic surfactant, in an amount of between about 3% and 25% based on the total weight of the dispersant composition, which is insoluble in water and ii) at least one polymer comprising at least one salt of a carboxylic acid group, in an amount between about 5% and 20% by weight based on the total weight of the dispersant composition, which is soluble in water, wherein the non-ionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The dispersant composition of claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene oxide comprises an alkylene oxide group of from about 1 to about 12 carbons.

4. (Previously presented) The dispersant composition of claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene oxide comprises a -CH₂-CH₂-O- group, a -CH(CH₃)-CH₂-O- group, a -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-O- group, a -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O- group, or combinations thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The dispersant composition of claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene oxide comprises a capping group.

6. (Original) The dispersant composition of claim 5, wherein the capping group is a C1-C20 alkyl group or an aromatic group.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The dispersant composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises an ammonium salt of a carboxylic acid.

11. (Original) The dispersant composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a salt of a copolymer of acrylic acid.

12. (Original) The dispersant composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is an ammonium salt of a copolymer of acrylic acid and methylmethacrylate.

13-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The dispersant composition of claim ~~17~~, ~~further~~ 1, wherein the aqueous solvent is water.

19. (Original) The dispersant composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one base.

20. (Currently amended) The dispersant composition of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 19, wherein the base is an hydroxide reagent or an amine.

21. (Currently amended) The dispersant composition of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 19, wherein the base is ammonia.

22. (Currently amended) A pigment composition comprising a) at least one pigment, and b) at least one dispersant composition comprising i) at least one nonionic surfactant which is insoluble in water and ii) at least one polymer comprising at least one salt of a carboxylic acid group wherein the non-ionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide and wherein the pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one organic group.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture thereof.

25. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group comprises at least one anionic group.

26. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group comprises at least one carboxylic group, a sulfonate group, or salts thereof.

27. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group is a carboxyphenyl group, a sulfophenyl group, or salts thereof.

28. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, further comprising an aqueous vehicle.

29. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 28, wherein the aqueous vehicle is water.

30. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide, the polymer is an ammonium salt of a copolymer of acrylic acid and methylmethacrylate, and the pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one sulfonate group.

31. (Currently amended) An aqueous coating composition comprising a) an aqueous vehicle comprising a water-based resin and an aqueous solvent, b) at least one pigment, and c) at least one dispersant composition comprising i) at least one nonionic surfactant which is insoluble in water and ii) at least one polymer comprising at least one salt of a carboxylic acid group wherein the non-ionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide and wherein the pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one organic group.

32. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the water-based resin is an acrylic resin, a polyurethane resin, an epoxy resin, a polyester resin, an alkyd resin, or a vinyl chloride-copolymer resin.

33. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the water-based resin is an acrylic latex.

34. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the aqueous solvent is greater than 70% water.

35. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the aqueous solvent is greater than 85% water.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim ~~[[36]]~~ 31, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture thereof.

38. (Currently amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim ~~[[36]]~~ 31, wherein the organic group comprises an anionic group.

39. (Currently amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim ~~[[36]]~~ 31, wherein the organic group comprises a carboxylic group, a sulfonate group, or salts thereof.

40. (Currently amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim ~~[[36]]~~ 31, wherein the organic group is a carboxyphenyl group, a sulfophenyl group, or salts thereof.

41. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide, the polymer is an ammonium salt of a copolymer of acrylic acid and methylmethacrylate, and the pigment is a pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one sulfonate group.